MISUSE OF THE CITY PARKS

CENTRAL PARK' SHABBINESS DUE TO PUBLIC INDIFFERENCE.

Little emprehension of the True Purposes of the (Ity's Breathing Spots-Eterna Vigilance the Price of Preserving the Parks From Vandals' Schemes

"The present shabby condition of Central Park seems to be due entirely to the lack of genuine interest shown by the people themselves in the preservation of this most beautiful breathing spot," said a veteran employee of the landscape gardening department the other day. "It is enough to break one's heart to see the way in which this almost perfect plece of landscape architecture is allowed to get sloppy and down at the heels, to have its roads ruined by the chains on automobile wheels its ponds and lakes made stagnant and filled with sewage and its lawns devastated by thoughtless crowds.

If the soil was not so light it would not makes much difference how many children and grown people were allowed to romp over the lawns, but under the circumstances in order to preserve the beauty of the park rigid restrictions should be maintained all through the season for the preservation of the sod. People do not seem to appreciate what are the true purposes of parks in crowded cities.

"Parks in my estimation are merely places for rest and recreation, and the nearer to nature they conform the better adapted they are for the purposes for which they are created. In spite of the great beauty of Central Park and the evident intention of its designers to make it as restful as possible our people have make it largely a great parade ground for the rich in their carriages and automobiles and a loafing place for petty crooks and men and women out of work.

"Automobiles, particularly those with chains on the tires, should never be permitted in the park and the commissioner who attempted to prohibit all machines showed that, although he had to yield in the end, he appreciated in a measure the purposes for which breathing places like Central Park are or ought to be maintained. One does not go there to be choked by foul gases or to watch touring cars tear by at a speed that is a menace to life and limb They get all they want of that kind of excitement in other parts of the city.

"How incongruous it is when you stop to think about it to see these huge machines racing through scenes of great natural beauty which were designed with an eye single to quiet restfulness. The bull is the china shop is quite mild in comparisan. Yet in pleasant weather those who seek the park to rest or to study nature find it difficult to get out of the range of these malodorous flyers. They are ubiquitous, and often the air is befouled for half an hour by a single machine.

"It is curious also what impressions many people have, some of them otherwise intelligent enough, about the use of parks In a crowded city like New York, for instance, where real estate is so exceedingly valuable, many hard headed business men cannot see why so much valuable space is left unimproved, so that when there is any talk about a new building there are always those who advocate putting it in a park, thus saving the price of a site.

"Our little City Hall Park is a striking example of this. It was none too large when it extended to Ann street on the south and free and clear to Chambers street on the north to show the graceful and im pressive lines of the City Hall. But the vandals descended upon it and, like their progenitors of old, grass never grew again where their horses trod.

"Instead in the open space there sprang such architectural monstrosities as the dungeonlike Federal Building and the Tweed court house, not to say anything about the hideous brownstone building and the ramshackle fire station. The fire station is now gone, as is the rickety old structure that used to house all the valuable records of

"They would be standing yet if the necessities of the subway construction had not compelled their demolition. As for the Federal Building, the Government of course will never restore the site to park purposes and it will likely be years and years before a new court house is built.

"It was a penny wise and pound foolish idea, even from a material standpoint, to destroy the beauty of the space around the City Hall, for had the municipal officials granted sites elsewhere the property taken for the buildings would by this time have increased enormously in value. And then to these were added the twin eyesores on the Mail street side.

"But the spirit of vandalism, as far as parks are converged seems to be aver-

parks are concerned, seems to be ever rampant in the most thickly settled parts of Manhattan, where these breathing spots are most needed. I have watched growth of the small park system and I have rejoiced in its extension, but it makes me rather sad to see the uses some of them

are put to.
"The edge of one of them was used for long time as a fish market for pushcart pediers, and the odor that arose from their wares and refuse grew finally so sickening that it threatened to poison the atmosphere

that it threatened to poison the atmosphere of the whole neighborhood. Nice use for a park, isn't it?

"The politicians, who pose as the friends of the pee-pul, fought for the retention of this filthy market in the park, but the pressure brought by the settlement people and other East Side workers finally compelled the officials to put the fish market under the Williamsburg Bridge. "Other small parks are taken up with

apparatus for athletic exercises in spite of the fact that a large proportion of the

"Other small parks are taken up with apparatus for athletic exercises in spite of the fact that a large proportion of the people for whose benefit these parks were designed, such as women, girls and small children, can't use the apparatus.

"I can well remember the persistence with which small parks in the congested sections were fought when the idea was first advanced. Whatever credit there is for the scheme belongs almost entirely to Jacob A. Riis, who was then a Police Headquarters reporter. It was his courage and patience that was responsible for the erection of the first small park, which is at Mulberry Bend.

"Not only did this afford a breathing place in one of the most crowded sections of the city, but it made imperative the tearing down of a row of tenements that were the most prolific breeders of orime in the metropolis. But the idea is making slow progress comparatively. There ought to be more of these parks devoted purely to park purposes.

"The proludice assinst using so much

to park purposes.

"The prejudice against using so much land in the city proper was prevalent long before Manhattan was so populous. History has it that when Central Park was first laid out there was a mighty roar of protest against taking so large an area for park

"Real estate sharps and others who foresaw the rapid growth of the population said it was nothing short of folly to devote so large a territory to a breathing place and the scheme to cut off the part north of Seventy-second street found many re-spectable and influential backers. It was only the courage of the original Park Com-mission that saved the scheme from such fate. Fancy Central Park squeeze in between Fifty-ninth and Seventy-second streets and the upper sections covered by residences, stores and apartment houses! "Yet the respectable and influential citizens who favored the scheme to destroy the usefulness of the park have their successors to-day, and they are the hardest class of all to deal with in the matter of pre-serving Central Park intact from vandal Some of the most unwarranted

attacks planned against—the beauty and harmony of the whole design were fathered by men high in the husiness, professional and official world.

"Take the plan to cut off a strip of the west side of the park for a speedway. This was backed by some of the wealthiest men in the city, and their influence was sufficiently strong to secure the approval sufficiently strong to secure the approval of the scheme by the park board, although it was pointed out that the making of such a drive would ruin the beauty of the park forever. It was only after the public had been aroused to the enormity of the proposed orime that the Legislature passed a law forbidding the cutting through of the speedway in the park.

"A recent scheme to take a wide strip

"A recent scheme to take a wide strip on the east side of the park in order to make a boulevard of Fifth avenue from on the east side of the park in order to miss a boulevard of Fifth avenue from Fifty-ninth street to 110th street was also favored by many rich and influential people, among them some of the owners of private houses along the line, who didn't care a rap for the old brown wall or whether the beauty of the design of the park as a whole was spoiled forever. They simply wanted a broader street without cost to set off more effectively their homes, and, of course, looked to the park to get it.

"Still another project involving the destruction of the southern end of the park, which contains no end of natural beauty, was favored by the late Gen. Collis, who was Commissioner of Public Works in Mayor Strong's term, and other gentlemen of military ideas. Their plan was to level down the rocks, destroy the trees and fill up the depressions for the purpose of building a huge esplanade of asphalt on which soldiers could drill and processions form.

"There is no end to the schemes that have been invented and pushed to subordi nate the beauty of the park to the utilitarian. You can't drive it into the heads of some men that the best thing to do is to let the park alone.

"Once a school commissioner proposed to take one of the beautiful meadows on the West Side where the sheep used to graze and turn its grass covered surface into a huge profile map of the world so that the pupils of the public schools could study geography from it. Another school com-missioner wanted a huge section of another meadow on which to raise wheat, corn. oats and the like in order that the poor children of the crowded district might see real grain growing.

There are hundreds of other foolish schemes that I could mention, but I believe I have said enough to prove that eterna virilance is the price of preserving Central Park. Conditions have improved very much since the Municipal Art Commission was formed and a landscape architect appointed without whose assent no statues can be erected or lines of conformation

"Since then we have had no images put up that are the work of stonemasons, but the old freaks of soulpture are standing still and it would be a relief to the eyes artistic portion of the community if some of them were torn down, either leaving the space free or filling it with statues worthy of the highest achievement of artists."

TURKEY IN CHURCH.

Stories of Amusing Experiences Told by Clergymen.

Although the average person would carcely look for humor in church services, ludicrous incidents arise now and again which make it an extremely difficult matter for the officiating clergymen to preserve the solemnity of the occasion and maintain dignified countenance. How many men, for instance, could have successfully resisted the impulse to laugh outright if placed in the circumstances related by a clerical correspondent of the Church Family Newspaper!

This correspondent tells how he had just commenced taking service one Sunday in a village in southern Manitoba, when on looking down the aisle he saw to his consternation that a turkey had strayed into the church. "The novelty of the situation filled me with an almost uncontrollable desire to laugh," the ministe continues: "so partly on this account l resolved to ask the church warden to eject the intruder. But before I could do so

the intruder. But before I could do so a dog appeared and seated himself just inside the door. Visions of a turkey-dog squabble forced me to abondon ideas of offensive operations.

"Meanwhile, it must be admitted, the turkey was behaving itself most devoutly, except that when the congregation stood up it exhibited symptoms of perturbation by protruding its feathers and stretching upward its neck to the furthest limit. Imagine the difficulty of preaching before that bird and maintaining one's equilibrium, especially when we sang 'Happy Birds' respecially when we sang Happy Birds
That Sing and Fly. Fortunately the turkey
did not take the hint, but remained quietly
seated on the floor to the end of the service,

did not take the nint, but remained query seated on the floor to the end of the service, when it walked out with the people."

According to the same paper, the Rev. W. Carrington, formerly vicar of Christ Church, West Bromwich, and now in New Zealand, was preaching in a strange church one Sunday evening. While he was having supper at the vicarage afterward a ring-came at the bell. The maid entered and said: "Please, sir, there is a man at the door who says he wants to speak to the preacher." The clergyman, thinking he was going to interview some one who had been touched by something he had said in his sermon, got up with alacrity and went into the hall. Here he saw a tall, powerful looking man. "Well, my man, what can I do for you?" "Well, sor, I was thinking while I was a-listening to yer preaching as how you might

"Well, sor, I was thinking while I was a-listening to yer preaching as how you might have a pair of trousers as would fit me." Both were over six feet in height.

Wedding ceremonies are often attended by amusing incidents. The following is told of a small village church. The father of the bride, a simple villager, came to give her away, dressed in long black frock coat and with a tall hat. When the clergyman put the question, "Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?" the poor father out the question, "Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?" the poor father was lost for the moment, but recovering himself, he touched his forelock and said

BLIND CLOCK MENDER. Has No Difficulty in Doing Expert Repair Work.

Charles Walters, who lives on Argentine Boulevard, Armourdale, is an expert clock repairer, although he is totally blind, says the Kansas City Star. Mr. Walters was graduated from the Kansas State Institution for the Blind twelve years ago. Clock repairing s not taught in that school. Mr. Walters learned it shortly after graduation and has since been engaged in the business.

He took a course in plane tuning in the State institution and he still does some of this work. Success in tuning musical instruments depends almost entirely on the ears and the eyes are not an important factor. Many blind people follow this profession. Mr. Walters takes the more pride in his clock repairing because few people have attained success in this line of work.

of work.

It is interesting to watch Mr. Walters repair a clock. As he takes it to pieces he does not place the wheels and other parts in order before him, as one might imagine he would. They are piled together on the table, but when he begins putting the clock together he has no difficulty in finding the parts as he wants them. When he picks up the wheels and other delicate parts and adjusts them without any healtation it seems as though he works any hesitation it seems as though he works

largely by intuition.

No, I can't fix a watch," said Mr. Walters. There is, of course, a limit to the sense of touch. The parts of a watch are so small and delivate that they cannot be adjusted without the use of the eyesight. In most cases the eyes must be supplemented by a magnifying glass. But I can fix any clock

that's made.
"I have felt that if I had my eyesight I would rather be an expert jeweller and watch repairer than anything else. Since I was a small boy I have had a special fondness for taking intricate machinery apart and putting it together again. Now when I have no clocks to fix and am lonesome for something to do I will get out one of the old clocks I have on hand and take it apart and put it back together just for the pleasure I find in the work.

CLUB RULES MADE TO ORDER

A MEMBER WHO WAS ALLOWED TO PAY CASH DAILY.

Another Who Got a Country Club to Let Him Out of Signing Cheeks-The Young Governor Who Took Care of a Delinquent-Making Money by Hiring Cabs.

Even the rules of New York clubs are not nflexible. It was not long ago that one of them went so far out of its usual routine as to allow an older member to pay cash for everything he had. His case was out of the ordinary. He was not young, he was all but alone in the world, as his only relative, a sister, lived in the South, and his day was spent in the clubhouse. One day he went to one of the governors and asked for a few minutes.

"You see," he said, "I am an old man. There are not many years before me in this world. I have all my affairs ready to leave have not a debt in the world.

"There is one thing, however, that troubles me. I have to wait every month before I pay my bills here. Couldn't the house committee make some arrangement by which I could pay every night when I go away? That would be a great relief to me and I could sleep much better with the knowledge that I had settled up everything for the day."

Such a request had never been made beore. It was necessary to have the house committee take action on it. The governor told him, however, that he would bring it up before the members. They granted the permission and the cashier daily made out the statement for this member.

Another clubman had somewhat the same sort of request to make of the governing committee of a country club in the neighborhood of New York. He one day approached the cashier with the request that he might make some arrangement by which it would not be pay, pay, pay from the time he got to the club until he went back to New York.

"It is the rule that all charges in the club house and for the game," said the cashier, must be signed for before the member eaves the club."

"That is all very well," the member re plied, "but it is a great nuisance to me to have to sign a check for my caddie, for a new golf ball if I need one, for a glass of shandygaff, for a newspaper and a stage to carry me to the station. I counted up the other day and I had signed ten checks

"Now I come here for recreation. I don' want to think of business even to the extent of writing my name on paper for what I have had.

The cashier said that he could do nothing about it and suggested that the matter be put before the board of governors, who had the say in such matters as there was no separate house committee. The member did this and now signs no checks. He doesn't even have to see them, as every expense he has is reported at the office and the cashier enters them in an account kept in his name. Now for the first time he enjoys the complete freedom from esponsibility that he sought.

Often rules are not strictly enforced against members of long standing, and one story of that kind is told of a club which s supposed to be the most difficult to get in of all in New York. There a member was chronically in arrears for his dues as well as for his house charges. It was impossible with the best will in the world for his friends to overlook the matter any longer. All the nembers had known him for years and the governors who, whether they liked him or not, had been acquainted with him from the time they came into the club as youngsters, finally realized that he would have to be suspended, that official action would have to be taken. It might stir him to some new method of finding the means to pay his charges. He was present on the night the fateful meeting was to be held. He was seated, moreover, where he commanded a view of the staircase. He saw all the govern ors wander up to their room. Only one was still downstairs.

ern ors wander up to their room. Only one was still downstairs.

It was he, however, that the delinquent was waiting for. He was the youngest governor in the club and in him alone lay hope. Finally this man, who had known the delinquent ever since he first became a member of the club as one of the oldest members, started upstairs to the room. The msn slipped quickly into the hall.

"I would not be surprised," he said after apologizing briefly, "if my name should be mentioned at the governors' meeting to-night. In fact, I am a little behind in my house charges after a great many years of membership in the club. Now, I thought that as a governor you might look out for me—see that no summary action is taken. In a few days it will be all right and I will be in a position to attend to the account

me—see that no summary action is taken. In a few days it will be all right and I will be in a position to attend to the account myself."

The young governor swelled with importance. To be addressed in this way by one of the oldest members on the way to attend his first board meeting made him realize how much of a man he must be. He did not know that every other governor had been importuned for this same favor until he was weary and the board was now ready to take final action.

"I will keep your request in mind, Mr. A—," he said. "You may rely on my interest in your behalf."

With the utmost dignity the member in arrears thanked him and went home. For various reasons he did not want to see the governors when they came down.

"We'll have to take some action to-night in the case of old man A—," the chairman was saying an hour later at the board meeting. "You know he's 'way behind againmore than ever. He'll never pay up unless we do something that will scare him. I suppose it will have to be suspension this time."

This was the cue for the new governor, who had not opened his head until that time, but had only shaken it to show that he assented. He cleared his throat so as to make sure that his voice would not go back on him.

"I would like to have any house charges

to make sure that his voice would not go back on him.

"I would like to have any house charges that there may be against Mr.A.—," he said, as the others stared at him in astonishment, "transferred to my account. I will be responsible for any such until he may be ready to meet them."

Then he took his seat satisfied that he had, by looking after the welfare of an old member, made his first appearance as a governor under proper auspices. The other governors looked from one to another, but to their credit did not smile. The young governor did have sufficient sense of humor to laugh himself, however, when put into possession of all the facts when put into possession of all the facts

It was the constitutional inability of an-It was the constitutional inability of another club member to pay his club debts that led to the abolition of one clubhouse rule which had been established for the benefit of the members. It was known as the carriage check rule. When a member arrived in a cab at the club and wanted a servant to pay the man for him, it was customary to hand the member a check for him to sign. This check was for \$5 in cash. The amount of the fare could then be paid and the member received the change. On the club account stood \$5 to his name.

The man who led to the abolition of this "The man who led to the abolition of this old rule," one of the members was saying the other night, "had very little money but a very exalted social position. It was always said that he and a brother lived somewhere in a hall bedroom and did their cooking on a gas stove. All of grandeur that remained to one of the brothers was his membership in the club.

membership in the club.

"He was never known to use it, however, except for his correspondence and for the view he evidently enjoyed from the Fifth avenue windows. He was there every afternoon from 4 to 6. Many of the members who knew how small his income had

become wondered where he even got the money to pay his annual dues. The house committee happened to know better than anybody else, except one or two of the club

employees.

"They were familiar with the old man's habit of taking a cab at some point very near the club. His usual place was about three blocks away where there was a cab stand. The cost of riding to the clubhouse was only 50 cents, although we suspected that he had a cabman under engagement to do it for much less.

"The hansom drove hansom drove up to the door and the old man, with as much dignity as if he had never done it before, would walk up the steps and say to the doorman: "James, a cab check, please. I have nothing but large bills."

nothing but large bills."
"Then a boy took down the money and into the old member's pocket went the change. Whether it was \$4.50 or not we never knew, since we thought he got cut rates. At all events he made enough money in that way to pay his annual dues of \$150. The question of meeting the house charges for the cab checks never bothered him much. He could pay them off by degrees as his meagre income came in to him. It was the necessity of raising such a large amount at once that came in to him. It was the necessity of raising such a large amount at once that was a problem that he had solved by means of the cab checks. It was his use of them that led to the abolition of the old rule and brought in the present arrangement by which the checks for cabs are paid like

POLICE WERE ON THE JOB. London Visitor Convinced of the Efficie:cy of the ew York Force.

Down in the old Ninth ward-far wes of Broadway and south of the lower fringe of the artificial palm belt-there still exist an old fashioned chop house where bad music and gilt ceilings have not been substituted for good cooking and intelligent service. In addition to the front entrance the place has a door in the rear, opening out on a side alley. On this second exit hinges the story of how a former head of the New York police force became confirmed in the opinion that he had the very finest police force in all the world.

When the superintendent, as the chief of police was then called, first began to dine at this little chop house there was consternation among the policemen of that and neighboring posts, for many of them were in the habit of dropping in there for refreshment at times when they should have been on duty.

Their discomfiture was not for long. however. Some wise cop with all the in stincts of a good detective, familiar with the door on the alley, devised a plan whereby he and his companions were enabled to enjoy their evening chop and ale without fear of detection by their chief.

His scheme, like all good schemes, simple. When the man on post-one man was always left outside spied the superintendent coming around the corner he would walk nonchalantly by the chop house, giving the wink to Johnny, the cashier, who sat at the desk by the door. Johnny in turn would tip off the dining cops, thus giving them ample time to slip out the back way and through the alley while the unsuspecting superintendent sauntered in by the front entrance.

One evening, just after some policemen had slipped out in response to the customary warning, the superintendent entered with a guest. The guest was a London inspector who had been sent to this country to study our methods.

"Well, you may say what you like," the Englishman said as the waiter was clearing away the dishes, "but I'd be willing to wager vou ten of your American dollars that if we were to step around the corner right now and call for help there wouldn' be a bobby within hail."

The waiter began to prick up his ears. "You're on with that bet," said the super-

"You're on with that bet," said the superintendent. "As soon as we've had our coffee we'll just step around the corner here and try it. And if you don't find that inside of—"

The waiter did not stop to hear more. He snapped his fingers as though he had suddenly remembered something and hurried toward the kitchen.
"Say," he blurted out to the cook, "tell George to serve the Chief's coffee and to take his blamed time about it, too! I can't wait."

Before the astonished cook had time to Hefore the astonished cook had the to ask an explanation the waiter was darting up the alley in search of the man on post. Luckily he knew where to find him.

"Listen," he gasped. And he breathlessly related what he had just heard in the chop house.

"Gee!" exclaimed the cop. "When? Whereabouts? Hold 'em as long as y' can, will yer?"

With shat he was off in search of the respon psighboring posts, and they in

men on neighboring posts, and they in turn hunted up still others.

Baok in the chop house the superin-

Baok in the chop house the superintendent was apologizing to the inspector.

"I'm sorry the service has been so bad here to-night. I've never known it to be like this before. Well, and now for our bet," he said when he had at last succeeded in getting his check made out.

They strolled around the corner to a quiet place in the middle of the block.

"Here," said the surerintendent, "here's a good place. Now I'll grab you by the shoulders and you yell for help. Good and loud, mind you, just as a man naturally would, you know."

The Englishman drew a deep breath and started in:

The Englishman drew a deep breath and started in:

"Heip! Help! Murder! Mur—"
But he got no further.
Scrambling up out of areaways, tumbling down out of doorways—cops, cops—it seemed as though every nook and corner in the neighborhood were raining fat cops.
Biff! Bang! Biff. They beat in the superintendent's hat.

Then, as each one apparently saw who it was, he drew off with "Oh, the superintendent! Sorry, sir," and started in to beat up the superintendent's English friend.

"Well," admitted the battered London inspector when explanations had been made and it was all over, "you've certainly got a very effective organization."

spector when explanations had been made and it was all over, "you've certainly got a very effective organization."
"Finest in the world," declared the super-intendent, winding slightly as he started to expand with pride.

Landiubbers' Ancher. From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

Capt. Sealby of the Cretic was talking about the nautical ignorance of the average ourist. "I once overheard a tourist," he said, "ask her husband where their daughter was.
"'In the blunt end of the ship,' the husband

answered.
"Still worse, though," Capt. Sealby continued, "was the nautical ignorance of a couple of landsmen who went sailing.
"These greenhorns had for anchor a lot of stones tied up in a burlap bag. When lunch time came the skipper called to his mate:
"Cast anchor! "Still wo

"Cast anchor!"

"The other heaved the anchor overboard, but in the act the burlap split and the stones sank to the bottom, while the bag floated.

"Skipper, 'said the man, after watching the bag a little while, 'the anchor won't sink. What's to be done?"
"Here,' said the skipper, capably, 'take this pole and shove her down."

Prague correspondence Pall Mall Gazette.

One of the most interesting features of

the Emperor's visit which ended to-day was the number of petitions which were,

so to speak, thrown at him during his fort-night's stay. Scarcely once did his Majesty drive out from the Hradschin without some body attempting to present an appeal. ually the petitioner was a small child and occasionally a woman. Most of the requests occasionally a woman. Most of the requests were for pecuniary assistance. The Emperor was always extremely courteous, and when, as frequently happened, the letter missed the carriage and fell into the road he invariably ordered the coachman to stop while the document was brought to him. The household chancery is now dealing with something more than a hundred petitions thus unceremonlously presented. All of them are carefully investigated, and whenever it is possible something is done for the applicant.

'PINAFORE'S'FIRST HOME HERE

RECORD OF THE MANHATTAN THEATRE, JUST CLOSED.

in It the Gilbert and Sullivan Craze Started -Other Notable Productions There -Vicissitudes of the Princess, Going Into Trade-Pays and Payers.

Two theatres that possess a certain historical interest for New Yorkers have closed their doors and will soon disappear. The Manhattan, known as the Standard during the golden days of its career, will be destroyed altogether within a short time. and the aerial perch, called during its last stage the Princess Theatre, has retired altogether from the arts and will go into trade.

The Manhattan was opened by Josh Hart as the Eagle on October 19, 1875. Its first seasons were not notable, otherwise Hart would not have given up the theatre, and William Henderson when he took it would not have changed the name so promptly to the Standard, the title by which it was known during the greater part of its existence.

Mr. Henderson was a manager who had made his reputation at Pittsburg. The first play with which he attracted the patronage of the public was "Our Boarding which carried those two young House, comedians, Robson and Crane, into a wider sphere than they had known before.

The next notable production was a play written by the wife of the manager, Mrs. Ettie Henderson, now manager of the Academy of Music in Jersey City. It was called "Almost a Life" and had a long run here as well as in the other cities to which it was taken. Maude Granger, then an admired beauty and one of the city's favorite actresses, had the leading rôle, although she shared honors with Rose Osborn, who ceased to act soon afterward.

Eben Plympton was a matinée idol in those days, and others associated with these actors in the cast were Gustavus Levick, Ben Maginley, B. T. Ringgold, Harry Eytinge and Charles Lecleroq. It would be difficult to collect to-day so many performers equally famous. The piece as well as the production made a sensational success in its time. It was in the next season of its existence

that the golden period of the theatre came in. Those were its Gilbert and Sullivar

James Duff, father-in-law of Augustin Daly and a manager of a comic opera company, as well as a theatre owner, had the rights to an English work known as "H M. S. Pinafore"-at least he thought he had the rights, although it turned out afterward that nobody had. He suggested to Henderson that they produce the work at the Standard, as he had open time there. This happened, of course, in the days

when New York playhouses had managers and not janitors. So it happened that the two got together, and on January 9, 1879, produced, in all innocence of what was going to follow, "Pinafore." Within s few months the opera was running simultaneously at four theatres. But they could not be expected to know all that in advance.

It was a notable cast that introduced the of was a notable cast that introduced the work here, and was made up about equally of singers and actors. The Sir Joseph was Thomas Whiffen, who died a few years ago and has left a son of the same name who shows something of the family talent. His wife, who then called herself Blanche Galton and is now the admired mother of society was some Little Ruthers on and she was drama, sang Little Buttercup, and she was then in truth "a plump and pleasing person." Eva Mills sang Josephine and Vernona Jarbeau, who looked about 22 at the Actors' Fair last week, was Hebe. She was then beau, who looked about 22 at the Actors Fair last week, was *Hebe*. She was then just out of one of the public schools—the old Twelfth street school, which also sent to the stage Zelie de Lussan. William Davidge, lent by Augustin Daly

william Davidge, lent by Augustin Daily from his stock company, was Dick Deadeye, and Henry Laurent the Ralph. The success of "Pinafore" is historic. J. K. Emmet came in afterward for a brief intermission of drama, if "Fritz" was

a drama, before more operetta. quette's "Rip Van Winkle," which Plana drains, belove more depeteds. Flair quette's "Rip Van Winkle," which introduced Richard Mansfield to New York audiences, and "Les Manteaux Noirs," sung by the same company that came from London to produce these operas, failed to find anything like the success of "Pinafore" or "Billee Taylor," which was the operetta that came after Fritz Emmet. Carrie Burton, then a girl with a beautiful voice that lasted her only a few seasons, was the great success of "Billee Taylor," although Alice Burville, a noted London beauty, was in the cast, along with Rose Chappeil.

The lustre of the Gilbert and Sullivan days returned with "Patience," which was produced in 1881. Carrie Burton was the heroine, and the gigantic Augusta Roche came over to sing Lady Jane. William Carleton was the Captain at first, while James Barton sang Grosvenor and Barton retired from the cast. J. H. Ryley was Bunthorne.

"Patience" lasted until "Iolanthe," from the same writers, was ready. Again Ryley, which intro-

the same writers, was ready. Again Ryley, Carleton and Augusta Roche were in the cast, and Marie Jansen was the beautiful fairy of the operetta, which never duplicated the success of the two that came before it. In the years that followed the Gilbert and Sullivar productions were transferred to

In the years that followed the Gibert and Sullivan productions were transferred to other theatres.

There was an unauthorized production of "The Mikado" at the Standard in 1885. This was under the management of Duff, who put into it all the noted singers of English opera that could be found, including Zelda Seguin at Katisha. The theatre had

Zelda Seguin at Katisha. The theatre had passed then into the direction of Brooks & Dickson.

In 1893 it was destroyed by fire, and when it was rebuilt J. K. Hill was its manager. One of its good turns at this time came in 1888-89, when the first of the Gaiety Theatre

isss-se, when the first of the Gaiety Theatre companies came here to produce a burlesque just as it was done in London.

The troupe really was the company from the Gaiety and brought all its favor here in their prime. Fred Leslie, and Nellie Farren headed the company. The company opened in "Monte Cristo, Jr." before a small audience which was to witness for the first time the skirt dancing that had made Sylvia Grav and Letty Lind famous in London. The two women were then young, and their graceful gyrations, entirely novel to Americans, aroused immediate enthusiasm. Marion Hood was another beauty of the company.

The business steadily increased until the engagement ended in great financial suc-

another beauty of the company.

The business steadily increased until the engagement ended in great financial success. The other burlesque was "Miss Esmeralda," Fred Leslie and the dancing Esmeralda." Fred Leslie and the dancing made the pieces succeed.

It had always been a tradition that the Standard was on the wrong side of Broadway, and that it was therefore difficult to make a piece succeed there. It had in fact much the same renown that the Garden possesses to-day. The Galety was one of the companies that filled it to overflowing.

Until Harrison Gray Fiske took the theatre and named it the Manhattan it had not been among the first houses for a decade.

theatre and named it the Manhattan it had not been among the first houses for a decade. Mrs. Fiske's performances there and the other engagements during his term of management are too recent to need to be recalled. The history of the theatre derives all its brilliancy chiefly from its first days. The little theatre known as the Princess rarely had at any other time in its career such a success as that which closed its doors. it was opened as the San Francisco Music Hall on September 3, 1874. There Billy Birch and Backus and Wambold held sway

for nearly ten years.

They must at one time have played to large audiences, although visitors to New York as early at 1879 were astonished at the size of the audiences. It was not unusual to find the audiences. It was not unusual to find as few as twenty persons in the parquet on a Saturday night. They were often friends of the performers, and had sometimes come to the little theatre as an appropriate retreat to recover from a walk uptown by the cocktail route of those days.

In 1883 Haverley settled his troupe of min-

streis there. This arrangement was brief and Maurice Grau soon put into the little BOOTBLACK TO THE FIREMEN

and Maurice Grau soon put into the little house a company to perform French opera comique and opera bouffe.

Haverley's Comedy Theatre the place was called. In the next few years it was successively known as the Gaiety, Hermann's after the prestidigitateur, Dockstader's, St. James's Hall, the Savoy, the Jonah, Sam Jack's—when the experiment was made of bringing up to Broadway the travelling shows that had hitherto kept to the Bowery or the East Side—the Theatre Comique, and finally, under Henry Miller and the Shuberts, the Princess.

Naturally the theatre became a hothouse for all sorts of freakish experiments. There various advanced stage societies

house for all sorts of freakish experiments. There various advanced stage societies tried out their theories, and there occasional performances of Ibsen had their chance before the plays of that author took their place in the regular repertoire.

There Jefferson de Angelis, fresh from Australia, made his first appearance, and there Alice Harrison, sister of Louis Harrison, the comedian, a popular actress of burlesque, appeared for the last time before her death, in "Ixion, or the Man at the Wheel," a strange renascence of Lydia Thompson burlesque, which survived for a short time and rested on the pulchritude of such stage beauties as Pauline Hall and Isabel Urquhart.

MOTOR BOATS IN TRADE. Spider and Sandily in Use for Transporta tion on the Niger.

Now that gasolene engines are being made more practical each day and are being fitted to vessels of all kinds, it is interesting to note the success that boats are making in trade. Two power boats, 56 feet long, were built some time ago by Thornycroft & Company for use on the River Niger and the Yachting World publishes an interesting account of what are probably the first motor boats of comparatively large size to be employed on the Niger and its tributaries for carrying cargo and purposes of communication.

The uses of the power boat using gasolen engines seem to be limitless and United States Consuls in their reports to the Government are constantly calling attention to the field that manufacturers will find abroad. The Yachting World says:

"These boats, Spider and Sandfly, are canoe shaped vessels, with very bows and square sterns, flat bottomed from end to end, with the exception of a slight rise fore and aft. They are 56 feet over all, 9 feet beam and only 12 inches draught, fully loaded. They were built entirely by Messrs. John I. Thornycroft & Company., Ltd., of Chiswick, and were each fitted with a Thornveroft motor de veloping 50 b. h. p. on paraffin and 54 b. h. p on petrol. With the exception that Spider is propelled by screws in tandem and Sandfly by a stern wheel, the vessels are identical. The motors have four cylinders 6 inch diameter by 8 inch stroke, cast in pairs, with valves arranged symmetrically on either side, inlet to port and exhaust starboard. The valves are actuated by vertical tappets fitted with rollers on their lower ends.

"An important feature of these motors is their accessibility, obtained by the special form of inspection doors fitted to the crank case. Two doors are fitted on each side These when removed leave the interior entirely exposed, including the cam shafts, which may be taken out at the side instead of being withdrawn longitudinally. To

which may be taken out at the side instead of being withdrawn longitudinally. To facilitate this the cam shaft bearings are made in halves, the bottom part being carried by brackets in the main casting and the tops being held in place by caps. The tappet rod guides are mounted on the respective cams, so that as soon as the former are removed the cam shafts are left absolutely free.

"Another important feature is the arrangement for running on petrol or paraffin, as desired. For this purpose four way connection is fitted to the induction pipe, the two horizontal branches going to the cylinders, the up going pipe leading to the paraffin vaporizer and the downtake pipe to the petrol carbureter. Each of the latter pipes is provided with a throttle, so that if the motor be started up on petrol the the motor be started up on petrol the vaporizer throttle is kept closed, while if it is desired to change over to the heavier tuel after the motor has warmed up the petrol throttle can be closed and the paraf-fin valve opened. Ordinarily the parafin vaporizer is heated by the exhaust gases which are passed through it; but if no petrol is available for starting, the motor can be started from cold in about ten minutes by means of a parafin lamp used to heat the vaporizer. Half compression cams are fitted to the exhaust cam shaft to facili-tate staying up it being easy to get un throttle can be closed and the parafare fitted to the exhaust cam shalt to facili-tate starting up, it being easy to get up a fair speed by hand under this condition, and as soon as the motor begins to fire the full compression is given, when it picks up very quickly.

"The first of these boats, the Spider, was

up very quickly.

"The first of these boats, the Spider, was completed and delivered to the Southern Nigerian Government in the early summer of last year, and after incidental delays due to transport was finally erected and launched at Old Calabar in July last.

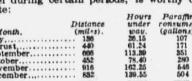
"The first trip was of four hours duration, on July 24, 1906. This was accomplished without a stop and without the least trouble from the motor, which used ordinary American paraffin exclusively. After this the boat was put into commission, making regular runs, towing steel or else native cances and delivering mails, &c.

"A notable run was one of 384 miles made last August, this being accomplished in 48 hours 23 minutes, or at an average of 7.68 miles an hour. The paraffin consumed was at the rate of 4.6 gallons an hour—an extremely economical figure undethe exceptional conditions. No petrol whatever was used on this occasion and the motor and clutch gave absolutely no trouble.

"Another very good performance was a

trouble. "Another very good performance was a journey of sixty miles from Itu to Indibe beach (Afikpo), towing two fully loaded steel cances December 25 and 26 last. This distance was covered in 14 hours 50 minutes, or at an average speed of about 4 miles an hour against stream. "The following table, showing distances

run, time under way and consumption of fuel during certain periods, is worthy of note:



1,959 Totals8.442 580,98

Remarks—Average hourly consumption of rarafin = 3.3718 gallons = 305 pints per b. h. p. per hour.

"The motor invariably starts as easily on paraffin as on petrol, and as cost of the former landed at Calabar is exactly half that of the latter, the advantages of using the heavier fuel are enormous, more particularly so with the very low consumption shown above. The mile ge cart of fuel works out at an average of about 7½d. (15 cents). A circumstance which speaks remarkably well for the ease and simplicity with which this type of motor may be handled is the fact that hitherto inexperienced natives have within a very short perienced natives have within a very short time mastered the details to the extent of being able to dismantle and reassemble it. Actually Spider has been running for days together and several hundred miles from her base in charge of a native engineer

Deserted Iowa Towns.

From the Burlington Hawkeye. Our State is so young that many are still in active life who assisted in laying its foundations, and yet we have many deserted vil-lages. There are probably few of the older ounties in the State that have not their de-

counties in the State that have not their deserted villages.

Des Moines county has several, the most important of which was Kossuth, a town of some pretensions in the northern part of the county. It boasted of a fine academy, where the higher branches were taught. It was a place of some commercial importance.

When the iron horse sought its way northward from Burlington it passed two miles to the eastward of Kossuth. Mediapolis began, and it soon became apparent to Mediapolis that it was most important that Kossuth be wiped out. Many of the houses were gradually moved from Kossuth to the railroad town, and to-day practically nothing remains of Kossuth.

FOR FORTY YEARS CLINKER HAS BEEN SHINING SHOES,

But Only in Engine Houses South of Houston Street-Oldest Unofficial Member of the Department-Rubbers, Who Does

Mending, Supples Another Mystery. Clustered around the Fire Department a curious collection of characters, and he oldest of them all is Clinker Clinker shines the shoes of the firemen in the firehouses south of Houston street, and this year he completed his fortieth year as an

inofficial member of the department. Clinker is an old man now. Forty years of shining shoes has bent him over until he is almost double, with a curious list to starboard. He doesn't know how old he s, but he does know that it was in 1867 that he first showed up at the old fire house at Chambers and Centre streets, and formally attached himself to the department.

The paid department was only a few years old then. Its members wanted to make a good appearance and overcome the resentment aroused in some quarters by the retirement of the vamps, so Clinker was formally enrolled as the official shoe shiner for the department, or part of it; for Clinker never would go north of Houston street then and he never has since.

He was born in the old Fourth ward, and if Clinker had had his way New York would have stopped growing at Houston street. In the forty years that Clinke has been shining the shoes of firemen in the fire houses south of Houston street he has met and become the friend of men who have risen to become chiefs and heads of the department, but once they were transferred north of Houston street they were lost to Clinker.

Chief Bonner was one of Clinker's friends. So was Chief Croker. When Bonner got up to Fire Headquarters he thought he could prevail on Clinker to come up there and shine his shoes, promising him lots of trade. But the old man shook his head. "No," he said, "they may call you chief, but there ain't no firemen north of Houston

Bonner and his old friends who have

risen in the ranks and gone up town occa-

street."

children.

sionally happen in on Clinker when he is busy polishing shoes downtown, and then Clinker gives them a shine just to show that his old hand has not lost its cunning. Nobody knows just who gave Clinker the only name he is known by in the department. His real name is said to be James Sullivan. There is now no member of the

department who was in it when Clinker began to shine shoes. Clinker visits every fire house once a day, his outfit under his arm. He collects the shoes of his customers from under their beds and polishes them for 50 cents a month. Tales of a fabulous fortune accumulated by the old man in the forty years he has been on the job are told, but they don't come from Clinker. What is known is that in that time he has supported two sisters and brought up and educated their

In the forty years Clinker has been shining shoes for firemen he has missed only three days. That was in 1876, the year of the Philadelphia 'exposition. Clinker was missing then and when he got back from the exposition Bonner, who was then a battalion chief, threatened to bring him up on charges for being absent from the department without leave. Clinker took the joke so seriously that he never absented

He wears no coat winter or summer, but goes in his shirt sleeves. Clinker has never been to a fire, but he has never missed the funeral of a fireman that he knew and elf again.

always turns up as a mourner.

Almost every firehouse in the downtown Almost every inchouse in the downtown kind that a story about Clinker. He is known from end to end of the department, because nearly every fireman and every officer from the chief down has had his officer from the chief down has had his shoes blacked one time or another by Clinker when he was doing duty downtown.

On Christmas Day a few years ago the men of Truck 20, on Mercer street, formally presented the old man with a big paper bag from which protruded the legs of an energy turkey. It was so his and so

bag from which protruded the legs of an enormous turkey. It was so big and so heavy that Clinker almost fell under the weight of it, but there was something suspicious about the bag and people whom he passed on Broadway began to snicker.

Finally Clinker dropped the bag and it fell with a thud on the pavement. The legs fell out. That was all there was to Clinker's turkey, for inside was a brick wrapped up in cloth. But the firemen made it up to Clinker afterward.

Another character who attached himself to the Fire Department years ago and is

Another character who attached himself to the Fire Department years ago and is one of its oldest unofficial members is more of a mystery even than the old shoeblack. The firemen call him Rubbers.

Rubbers is an old man who appeared about 1880 and offered to mend the firemen's rubber coats and boots. His services were accepted by the firemen, and he now visits every fire house. The firemen save up old pieces of hose for the old man, and with them he patches their coats and shoes.

Rubbers sleeps in the basement of whatever engine house he happens to be in when night overtakes him. Apparently he has no home, but what has puzzled the firemen since he came among them back in 1880 has been the evidence of refinement in his past which now and then crops out in his con-

which now and then crops out in his con-But the old man has always refused to dis-But the old man has always refused to disclose his identity and nobody knows his real name or where he came from originally. All that they know is that he has been mending rubber boots in the department since most of the present members joined.

There was a period of seven years when the old man was missing. That was following the Park place disaster. The fremen made a search for him then and found that he had been seen to enter the restaurant in the

made a search for him then and found that he had been seen to enter the restaurant in the building just before it collapsed. Everybody gave Rubbers up for dead then. Nobody took his place, and one day seven years later the old man appeared and started looking over the rubber boots for holes in one of the engine houses, just as though nothing had happened. The word was sent all around then that Rubbers was back, and the firemen plied him with

word was sent all around then that Rubbers was back, and the firemen plied him with questions as to where he had been, but Rubbers refused to tell them. Some years afterward he told them that he had spent the seven years in Chicago, but what he went there for nobody knows.

Both Rubbers and Clinker have the entrance to all the fire houses, and no one has ever tried to compete with them for the firemen's trade. They both consider themselves members of the department and scorn to class themselves with the buffaloes, as the enthusiastic citizens who have the craze to follow the smoke eaters are called. Some day the two old men will reach Some day the two old men will reach the ace limit and will disappear. Then the firemen will miss them. They are long past the ace limit for real firemen now, but it will take more than a Commissioner

Her Boston Training.

to retire them.

From the Denrer Post. Virge Byram, manager of some sawmills at Monarch, Col., was in the city yesterday. Last summer Mr. Byram entertained a lot of people, most of them relatives of his, up at the mills. Among them was a young lady from

mills. Among them was a young lady from Boston. This summer he expects most of them back again. He again invited the young woman from the Hub, and several days ago he received a letter from her accepting the invitation.

"Dear Mr. Byram," the letter said, "I shall be delighted to journey westward and join the party which is to solourn at your mills again this summer. I have a queer ambition, Mr. Byram. It is to kill a Robert cert. I am going to bring a fine little 22 calibra revolver, and if you find it possible to let me shoot a Robert cat I shall be deeply indebted to you. Yelvs, &c.

"She evidently means that she wants to kill a bebest," said Mr. Byram, and her Boston I raining makes her say 'Robert."